



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2008

Contact: HFD Public Information, 713-495-7906, after hours, 713-865-4270

2nd UPDATE - REPORTED GAS LEAK IN N.E. HOUSTON

The Houston Fire Department was dispatched to a reported gas leak just after 3 p.m. today in the area around 2400 Chew and 701 Solo in northeast Houston.

Hazmat crews measured the air quality and found nothing. There were no indications of flammable or explosive gas. Entex has also responded and found no indications of a gas leak.

Three individuals were treated for breathing problems at Wheatley High School. One student was transported.

Crews have traced the order to a salvage yard (Prowler SW Scrap Co.) at Japhet near Clinton Drive. Hazmat has recovered a 55-gallon drum in which about one gallon of residual Mercaptan leaked. We are working with the local Environmental Protection Agency to neutralize the area. The source of the smell is from Mercaptan. Mercaptan is the harmless, non-toxic chemical that is added to natural gas to make it easier to detect in case of a leak. Some people compare it to the smell of rotten eggs.